## Hunting Incidents In Washington 1937 – 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Fatal Incidents</th>
<th>Non-Fatal Incidents</th>
<th>Livestock Incidents</th>
<th>Total Incidents</th>
<th>Self-Inflicted Fatalities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1937 - 1946</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1947 - 1956</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>377</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1957 - 1966</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>329</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>415</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1967 - 1976</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>353</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>409</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1977 - 1986</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>279</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987 - 1996</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>204</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997 - 2006</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007 - 2009</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total #</strong></td>
<td><strong>360</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,570</strong></td>
<td><strong>50</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,996</strong></td>
<td><strong>71</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Hunting Fatalities By Decade

![Hunting Fatalities By Decade](image-url)
HUNTING INCIDENT DATA SUMMARY  
July 1, 2008 — June 30, 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shooter Status</th>
<th>Number of Incidents</th>
<th>Firearm Type</th>
<th>Fatal</th>
<th>Non-Fatal</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Self-inflicted</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Shotgun</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shot by someone in same party</td>
<td>*3</td>
<td>Rifle</td>
<td>*3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shot by someone outside party</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Handgun</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livestock</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Muzzleloader</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>*7</td>
<td>Archery</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Under investigation; has not yet been determined whether it is a hunting incident.

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# NON-FATAL INCIDENTS

1. **SHOOTER:** 39 year-old male  
**VICTIM:** 39 year-old male  
**FIREARM:** 12 gauge shotgun  
**TYPE:** Non-fatal  
**COUNTY:** Spokane  
**BLAZE ORANGE:** Yes  
**HUNTER ED GRADUATE:** Yes  
**DATE OF INCIDENT:** 10/25/08  
**NARRATIVE:** The shooter and victim were hunting pheasants about 35 yards apart when a bird flushed between them. The shooter fired, striking the victim in the legs, shoulder, face and eye. The victim was silhouetted by a willow tree and high grass and not easily visible to the shooter.  
**CAUSE:** Victim covered by shooter swinging on game

2. **SHOOTER:** 47 year-old male  
**VICTIM:** Self-inflicted  
**FIREARM:** .50 muzzleloading rifle  
**TYPE:** Non-fatal  
**COUNTY:** Pacific  
**BLAZE ORANGE:** N/A  
**HUNTER ED GRADUATE:** Yes  
**DATE OF INCIDENT:** 12/31/08  
**NARRATIVE:** The shooter returned to camp from a muzzleloading hunt and was putting his rifle on the top bunk in his camper when the gun discharged through his right hand. The shooter failed to remove the percussion cap before putting his firearm away and the safety was in the “off” position when the rifle discharged.  
**CAUSE:** Careless handling

3. **SHOOTER:** 57 year-old male  
**VICTIM:** 55 year-old male  
**FIREARM:** 12 gauge shotgun  
**TYPE:** Non-fatal  
**COUNTY:** Franklin  
**BLAZE ORANGE:** N/A  
**HUNTER ED GRADUATE:** Yes  
**DATE OF INCIDENT:** 11/7/08  
**NARRATIVE:** The shooter was a waterfowl guide who, along with his client, was looking for crippled birds. The victim was about 50 yards away and obscured by a Russian olive tree when the shooter fired at a cripple on the water, striking the victim with one ricochet pellet in the face.  
**CAUSE:** Victim out of sight of shooter / ricochet
FATAL INCIDENTS

4. **SHOOTER:** 14 year-old male  **VICTIM:** 54 year-old female  
**FIREARM:** .270 rifle  **TYPE:** Fatal  
**COUNTY:** Skagit  **BLAZE ORANGE:** N/A  
**HUNTER ED GRADUATE:** Yes  **DATE OF INCIDENT:** 8/2/08  

**NARRATIVE:** The shooter and his 16 year-old brother were hunting along a hiking trail during intermittent fog and observed movement below them about 80 yards away. The shooter thought it was a bear and fired, striking a hiker in the head and killing her instantly. The shooter was tried and convicted of second degree manslaughter.

**CAUSE:** Victim mistaken for game

5. **SHOOTER:** 28 year-old male  **VICTIM:** 36 year-old male  
**FIREARM:** .270 rifle  **TYPE:** Fatal  
**COUNTY:** Chelan  **BLAZE ORANGE:** N/A  
**HUNTER ED GRADUATE:** Yes  **DATE OF INCIDENT:** 10/12/08  

**NARRATIVE:** The shooter and a hunting companion were dropped off by the victim. They planned to hunt downhill and rendezvous later with the victim (who served as the vehicle driver). When the shooter approached the vehicle he began unloading and his rifle discharged, striking the victim inside the vehicle 25 yards away.

**CAUSE:** Careless handling while unloading (safety was off)

6. **SHOOTER:** 56 year-old male  **VICTIM:** Self-inflicted  
**FIREARM:** 12-gauge shotgun  **TYPE:** Fatal  
**COUNTY:** Benton  **BLAZE ORANGE:** N/A  
**HUNTER ED GRADUATE:** Unknown  **DATE OF INCIDENT:** 10/19/08  

**NARRATIVE:** A solo waterfowl hunter did not return home as expected, triggering a search. The hunter was found dead with a single gunshot wound to the chest. The wound was self-inflicted and appeared to be incidental.

**CAUSE:** Careless handling
7. **SHOOTER:** Unknown shooter  
**VICTIM:** 30 year-old male  
**FIREARM:** Unknown rifle  
**TYPE:** Fatal  
**COUNTY:** Skamania  
**BLAZE ORANGE:** No  
**HUNTER ED GRADUATE:** Unknown  
**DATE OF INCIDENT:** 11/1/2008

**NARRATIVE:**
This incident took place during a November elk season. The victim was picking bear grass by himself when an unknown shooter fired a single shot, striking and killing the bear grass picker. The sheriff’s office has identified a possible shooter in this incident, which is still under investigation. No determination has been made yet by the sheriff’s office whether this was a hunting incident.

**CAUSE:** Under investigation: Possibly a case of victim mistaken for game